

UVM to study local and national transportation issues

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The University of Vermont will do research on local and national transportation topics with help from a \$16 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

UVM on Tuesday launched its National University Transportation Center, one of 10 such facilities in the country.

The five-year federal grant will be used to come up with ways to promote more efficient and environmentally friendly transportation.

Sen. James Jeffords, I-Vt., obtained the federal money for the center.

UVM is raising \$16 million in matching funds from private and public sources.

"We all believe that the work we do here at the University of Vermont's National University Transportation Center, in coordination with other centers around the country, has the potential to prove just as transformative for a whole new era of sustainable transportation as was the launch of the entire interstate highway system just 50 years ago," UVM President Daniel Fogel said.

The grant and funding will pay for research and research scientists, faculty, doctoral and graduate students, and the center's new director, Lisa Aultman-Hall. Hall, who is head of the Connecticut Transportation Institute, will start her job at UVM in September.

Renovating a former library into the center is estimated to cost \$1.5 million.

This fall, the center will plan its main projects. The projects will focus on the work of students as well as partnerships with local businesses and and state and local organizations.

Addressing freight problems in Vermont could be a topic, UVM officials said.